

## National Priorities Site

Hazardous waste site listed under the  
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA "Superfund")

ARKWOOD, INC.  
Omaha, Arkansas

The Arkwood, Inc., Site covers 20 acres on the Missouri-Pacific's Cricket railroad siding, south of Omaha in Boone County, Arkansas. The site consists of a millwork shop, a wood-treating operation using pentachlorophenol (PCP) and creosote, and a storage yard for the treated wood products before sale. Arkwood started operations at the site in the early 1960s. In the mid 1970s, the owner of Arkwood leased the process and land to Mass Merchandisers, Inc., of Harrison, Arkansas. Mass Merchandisers' lease expired on Jan. 1, 1985, and was not renewed. The plant has not operated since then.

Wastes from the wood-treating operation, according to Mass Merchandisers, were dumped into a cave at the treating plant from the beginning of the operation to around 1970, when the cost of the chemicals used in the treatment process forced use of a recovery system. The entrance to the cave, which is at ground level, has been boarded and covered with a layer of dirt. The wastes consist of the liquid from washing of the treatment room floor and the treatment equipment. These wastes accumulated in a tank and were then spread over the storage yard to control dust. Based on plant operations during 1970, a minimum of 6,000 to 7,000 pounds per year of waste were generated over the more than 20 years of operation, according to Mass Merchandisers. However, prior to 1970, when the recovery operation began, the quantities were significantly higher. There is also a pit containing 40 cubic yards of waste adjacent to the site next to the railroad, as well as a pile of 6,000 cubic yards of sawdust and woodchips.

Approximately 660 persons living within 3 miles of the site depend on ground water as a source of drinking water. The State has detected PCP in local water wells, natural springs in the area, and in nearby Walnut Creek.

Mass Merchandisers has sent the contaminated wood on the site and the contents of the tank to an approved disposal facility. The company has also drilled a new well for a resident near the site and retained a consulting firm to conduct a geohydrological study in the area.

